

REMARKS

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the non-elected Claims 8-11 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application thereon. The subject matter of objected-to Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1 and represented as newly added Claim 12. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to correct the formal defects contained therein and subject matter which Applicants deem as being allowable in Claim 7 has been incorporated into Claim 6. That is, Claims 6 now requires that the inner panel comprises a ridge portion having a rising portion and the reinforcing member has a joining piece attached to the inner panel along the rising portion. Support for this language can be found in Figure 24 and the first full paragraph on page 43 of the present specification. No new matter has been added.

The Kowall et al reference discloses a vehicle door assembly including outer and inner plastic panels bonded together with the inner panel molded with upright forward, aft and intermediate frame portions. The door comprises a T-shape portion having a waist frame portion 24 and an intermediate frame portion 44 as part of the inner panel. In contrast thereto, currently presented Claim 6 requires that the reinforcing member 212 have a joining piece 253 formed along and joined to rising portion 235a of the inner panel. This feature clearly is not shown in Kowall et al and, as such, amended Claim 6 is clearly patentably distinguishable thereover.

If the Examiner feels that there are any outstanding matters left to be resolved in the present application, he is

respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in order  
that these matters may be dealt with.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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TFC/smd

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